

Burns, Vanessa

From: Teresa & John Harrington [101881@optonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 4:43 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: FW: Legislative Alert! BESB Consolidation
Importance: High

March 1, 2011

Dear Esteemed Members of the Appropriations Committee:
First and foremost, thank you for your dedicated service to our State government.

I am writing to you today, as the parent of a fourteen-year-old girl who has been blind since birth. It is very disturbing to hear about the proposed House Bill # 6380 to eliminate the Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

It is of my opinion that the consolidation of this agency into two larger State agencies will jeopardize the cohesive structure of services our daughter currently receives, and going forward, the seamless transition into adult services. BESB has helped us provide our daughter with opportunities to the expanded core curriculum because of their ability to respond in a timely, streamlined, effective way to purchase and/or offer programs and the necessary equipment that is critical for her to become independent. As an agency, my family and I have attended countless in service workshops to learn how to parent our child with this profound loss. Parents need resources too!

The employees of this very specialized and dedicated division deserve to stay together under one centralized unit. The synergies, resources, effectiveness and experience they share today cannot be duplicated. The citizens of this State who receive very specialized, explicit teaching should not be compromised.

I can't imagine what my life would be like without my vision.... can you?
Thank you in advance for your kind consideration to this request. The blind population of this State deserve a central voice to have their needs met - please don't abandon them.

Sincerely,
Teresa Harrington
163 Judd Road
Easton, CT. 06612